

Table of Contents

CHAPTER I: OVERVIEW OF THIS PLAN AND ITS DEVELOPMENT	1
1 INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Goals and Guiding Principles.....	1
1.1.1 Federal Emergency Management Agency Philosophy.....	1
1.1.2 Additional State and Federal Guidelines Adopted	2
1.1.2.1 National Fire Plan.....	3
1.1.2.2 Idaho Statewide Implementation Strategy.....	4
1.1.2.2.1 County Wildland Fire Interagency Group.....	5
1.1.2.3 National Association of State Foresters.....	6
1.1.2.3.1 Identifying and Prioritizing Communities at Risk	6
1.1.2.3.2 Conceptual Approach.....	7
1.1.2.4 Healthy Forests Restoration Act.....	8
1.1.3 Elmore County Comprehensive Growth and Development Plan	9
1.1.4 Elmore County Wildfire Mitigation Planning Philosophy	10
1.1.4.1 Mission Statement.....	10
1.1.4.2 Vision Statement	10
1.1.4.3 Goals	10
CHAPTER 2: PLANNING PROCESS.....	11
2 DOCUMENTING THE PLANNING PROCESS	11
2.1.1 Description of the Planning Process.....	11
2.2 Public Involvement.....	12
2.2.1 News Releases.....	12
2.2.1.1 Radio Messages.....	12
2.2.1.2 Newspaper Articles	12
2.2.2 Public Mail Survey.....	13
2.2.2.1 Survey Results.....	13
2.2.3 Committee Meetings	17
2.2.4 Public Meetings.....	19
2.2.4.1 Stage Stop Public Meeting	20
2.2.4.2 Mountain Home Public Meeting	21
2.2.4.3 Pine Public Meeting	22
2.2.4.4 Glenns Ferry Public Meeting.....	23
2.2.4.4.1 Meeting Notices.....	25
2.2.4.4.2 Legal Notice in Local Newsprint.....	25
2.3 Review of the WUI Wildfire Mitigation Plan.....	26
CHAPTER 3: COUNTY CHARACTERISTICS & RISK ASSESSMENT	27
3 BACKGROUND AND AREA DESCRIPTION	27
3.1 Demographics	27
3.2 Socioeconomics	29

3.2.1	History of Elmore County	31
3.3	Description of Elmore County.....	34
3.3.1	Highways	34
3.3.2	Rivers	34
3.3.3	Temperature	35
3.3.4	Growing Season	35
3.3.5	Days of Sunshine	35
3.3.6	Winds	35
3.3.7	Fog, Low Visibility, Low Clouds.....	35
3.3.8	Inversions.....	35
3.3.9	Forestry, Agriculture & Livestock	36
3.3.9.1	Elmore County's Forest Management Goals.....	36
3.3.9.2	Elmore County's Range Management Goals	36
3.3.9.3	Integration of these Goals.....	37
3.3.10	Recreation	37
3.3.10.1	National Forests	37
3.3.10.2	Three Island Crossing State Park	37
3.3.10.3	Bruneau Dunes.....	37
3.3.10.4	Boating.....	38
3.3.10.5	Camping.....	38
3.3.10.6	Fishing and Hunting.....	38
3.3.10.7	Skiing	38
3.3.11	Resource Dependency.....	38
3.4	Planning and Zoning	39
3.4.1	Building Permit Requirements	39
3.4.2	Information on Plans and Specifications	40
3.4.2.1	Drawings	40
3.5	Emergency Service Coordination.....	40
3.6	Growth and Development.....	41
3.6.1	Population	41
3.7	Cultural Resources	42
3.8	Transportation.....	46
3.9	Vegetation & Climate.....	47
3.9.1	Forests	48
3.9.2	Rangeland.....	49
3.9.3	Monthly Climate Summaries In or Near Elmore County	49
3.9.3.1	Grand View 2 W, Idaho (103760).....	49
3.9.3.2	Bruneau, Idaho (101195).....	50
3.9.3.3	Mountain Home, Idaho (106174)	50
3.9.3.4	Anderson Dam, Idaho (100282).....	51
3.9.3.5	Glenns Ferry, Idaho (103631)	51
3.9.3.6	Hill City 1 W, Idaho (104268)	51
3.10	Wildfire Hazard Profiles.....	52
3.10.1	Wildfire Ignition Profile	52
3.10.2	Wildfire Extent Profile.....	64
3.11	Analysis Tools and Techniques to Assess Fire Risk.....	66

3.11.1	Fire Prone Landscapes	67
3.11.2	Fire Regime Condition Class	71
3.11.3	Predicted Fire Severity.....	73
3.11.3.1	Purpose.....	73
3.11.3.2	General Limitations.....	74
3.11.4	On-Site Evaluations	74
3.11.5	Fuel Model Descriptions.....	75
3.11.5.1	Grass Group	75
3.11.5.1.1	Fire Behavior Fuel Model 1	75
3.11.5.1.2	Fire Behavior Fuel Model 2	75
3.11.5.1.3	Fire Behavior Fuel Model 3	76
3.11.5.2	Shrub Group	76
3.11.5.2.1	Fire Behavior Fuel Model 4	76
3.11.5.2.2	Fire Behavior Fuel Model 5	76
3.11.5.2.3	Fire Behavior Fuel Model 6	77
3.11.5.2.4	Fire Behavior Fuel Model 7	77
3.11.5.3	Timber Group	77
3.11.5.3.1	Fire Behavior Fuel Model 8	77
3.11.5.3.2	Fire Behavior Fuel Model 9	78
3.11.5.3.3	Fire Behavior Fuel Model 10	78
3.11.5.4	Logging Slash Group	79
3.11.5.4.1	Fire Behavior Fuel Model 11	79
3.11.5.4.2	Fire Behavior Fuel Model 12	79
3.11.5.4.3	Fire Behavior Fuel Model 13	80
3.12	Wildland-Urban Interface	80
3.12.1	People and Structures.....	80
3.12.2	Infrastructure.....	84
3.12.3	Ecosystems	84
3.13	Soils	84
3.13.1	Fire Mitigation Practices to Maintain Soil Processes	86
3.14	Hydrology.....	87
3.14.1	Fire Mitigation Practices to Maintain Hydrologic Processes	89
3.15	Air Quality	91
3.15.1	Fire Mitigation Practices to Maintain Air Quality	92
3.15.2	Elmore County's Comprehensive Plan Coordination	93
CHAPTER 4: SUMMARIES OF RISK AND PREPAREDNESS		95
4	OVERVIEW	95
4.1	Wildland Fire Characteristics	95
4.1.1	Weather	95
4.1.2	Topography	95
4.1.3	Fuels	96
4.2	Elmore County Conditions	96
4.2.1	County Wide Potential Mitigation Activities	97
4.2.1.1	Prevention.....	97
4.2.1.2	Education.....	98
4.2.1.3	Readiness.....	98

4.2.1.4 Building Codes	98
4.3 Elmore County's Wildland-Urban Interface	99
4.3.1 Mitigation Activities Applicable to all Communities	100
4.3.1.1 Homesite Evaluations and Creation of Defensible Space	100
4.3.1.2 Travel Corridor Fire Breaks	100
4.3.1.3 Power Line Corridor Fire Breaks	101
4.4 Rangeland Communities in Elmore County	101
4.4.1 Vegetative Associations	101
4.4.2 Overall Fuels Assessment	101
4.4.3 Individual Community Assessments	102
4.4.3.1 Oasis.....	102
4.4.3.1.1 Fuels Assessment.....	102
4.4.3.1.2 Escape	103
4.4.3.1.3 Infrastructure.....	103
4.4.3.1.4 Community Risk Assessment	103
4.4.3.1.5 Potential Mitigation Activities	103
4.4.3.2 Tipanuk.....	104
4.4.3.2.1 Fuels Assessment.....	104
4.4.3.2.2 Infrastructure	104
4.4.3.2.3 Escape	104
4.4.3.2.4 Community Risk Assessment	104
4.4.3.2.5 Potential Mitigation Activities	105
4.4.3.2.6 Coordination with the Comprehensive Plan	105
4.4.3.3 Mountain Home.....	105
4.4.3.3.1 Fuels Assessment.....	105
4.4.3.3.2 Escape	106
4.4.3.3.3 Infrastructure	106
4.4.3.3.4 Community Risk Assessment	106
4.4.3.3.5 Potential Mitigation Activities	106
4.4.3.3.6 Coordination with the Comprehensive Plan	107
4.4.3.4 Chattin Flats / Grand View.....	107
4.4.3.4.1 Fuels Assessment.....	107
4.4.3.4.2 Potential Mitigation Activities	107
4.4.3.4.3 Coordination with the Comprehensive Plan	107
4.4.3.5 Glenns Ferry, Hammett and King Hill	107
4.4.3.5.1 Fuels Assessment.....	108
4.4.3.5.2 Infrastructure.....	108
4.4.3.5.3 Escape	108
4.4.3.5.4 Community Assessment.....	108
4.4.3.5.5 Potential Mitigation Activities	108
4.4.3.5.6 Coordination with the Comprehensive Plan	108
4.5 Forestland Communities of Elmore County	109
4.5.1 Vegetative Associations	109
4.5.2 Overall Fuels Assessment	109
4.5.3 Individual Community Assessments	110
4.5.3.1 Atlanta	110
4.5.3.1.1 Fuels Assessment.....	110
4.5.3.1.2 Infrastructure.....	111
4.5.3.1.3 Escape	111
4.5.3.1.4 Community Assessment.....	111
4.5.3.1.5 Potential Mitigation Activities	112
4.5.3.1.6 Coordination with the Comprehensive Plan	112
4.5.3.2 Dixie	113

4.5.3.2.1	Fuels Assessment.....	113
4.5.3.2.2	Infrastructure.....	113
4.5.3.2.3	Escape.....	113
4.5.3.2.4	Community Assessment.....	113
4.5.3.2.5	Potential Mitigation Activities.....	113
4.5.3.3	Pine, Featherville, and Fall Creek	114
4.5.3.3.1	Fuels Assessment.....	114
4.5.3.3.2	Infrastructure.....	114
4.5.3.3.3	Escape.....	114
4.5.3.3.4	Community Assessment.....	115
4.5.3.3.5	Potential Mitigation Activities.....	115
4.5.3.3.6	Coordination with the Comprehensive Plan	118
4.5.3.4	Prairie	118
4.5.3.4.1	Fuels Assessment.....	119
4.5.3.4.2	Infrastructure.....	119
4.5.3.4.3	Escape	119
4.5.3.4.4	Community Assessment.....	119
4.5.3.4.5	Potential Mitigation Activities.....	119
4.5.3.4.6	Coordination with the Comprehensive Plan	120
4.6	Fire Fighting Resources and Capabilities.....	120
4.6.1	Wildland Fire Districts.....	120
4.6.1.1	Bureau of Land Management, Lower Snake River District	120
4.6.1.2	Boise National Forest, South Zone FIRE Organization	123
4.6.2	Rural Fire Districts.....	126
4.6.2.1	Atlanta Rural Fire Protection District.....	126
4.6.2.2	Glenns Ferry City/ King Hill Rural Fire Department	126
4.6.2.3	Mountain Home City/Rural Fire.....	127
4.6.2.4	Oasis Volunteer Fire Department	128
4.6.2.5	Mountain Home AFB	129
4.6.2.6	Grand View Rural Fire Protection.....	130
4.7	Issues Facing Elmore County Fire Protection	131
4.8	Current Wildfire Mitigation Activities in Elmore County.....	131
CHAPTER 5: TREATMENT RECOMMENDATIONS		133
5	OVERVIEW	133
5.1	Possible Fire Mitigation Activities	133
5.2	WUI Safety & Policy	133
5.2.1	Existing Practices That Should Continue	134
5.2.2	Proposed Activities	135
5.3	People and Structures	136
5.4	Infrastructure	142
5.5	Resource and Capability Enhancements	143
5.6	Regional Land Management Recommendations	146
5.6.1	Fire Mitigation Opportunities and Elmore County/Lower Snake River District BLM	146

5.6.1.1	Railroad Right-of-Way	147
5.6.1.2	Interstate 84 Corridor	147
5.6.1.3	Fence-line Tumbleweed Burning	148
5.6.1.4	General Projects	148
5.6.2	U.S. Forest Service WUI treatments being considered in Elmore County	148
5.6.2.1	US Forest Service Project Development and Implementation Timeframes	148
CHAPTER 6: SUPPORTING INFORMATION	151	
6	151	
6.1	List of Tables.....	151
6.2	List of Preparers	152
6.3	Signature Pages.....	154
6.4	Glossary of Terms.....	156
6.5	Literature Cited.....	163